

CHAPTER 1 – INDIANA DRIVER'S LICENSES

Indiana's New Digital Driver's Licenses

In June 2007, the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) began providing Hoosiers a new driver's license and identification card. Through use of innovative technology, these documents help prevent identify theft and card tampering, and improve the detection of underage drinking.



Adult License



Under-21 License

The new design features embedded digital enhancements to ensure authenticity. Some information is detectable only with a black light, while other secured data is embedded in a barcode on the back of the card. The most visible change is a vertical format for Hoosiers under 21 years of age, with the dates the recipient turns age 18 and 21 designated in yellow and red, respectively.

Driver education learner's permits and validated learner's permits are identified with a purple State of Indiana indicator in the upper left hand corner of the document. Commercial driver's licenses (CDL) will have a red State of Indiana indicator. State identification cards will include all the same security features as the driver's licenses with a green header and a green State of Indiana indicator in the upper left hand corner of the document. For more information, visit www.myBMV.IN.gov.

Operator's License

An operator's license gives a holder 18 years of age or older full driving privileges to operate most standard passenger vehicles on Indiana roads. A probationary operator's license may be issued to individuals less than 18 years of age.

In addition, an operator's license does not permit driving for hire or driving as an employee if the driver transports or carries property in any vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 16,000 pounds or more or transporting people for hire. All states allow Indiana residents to operate a vehicle with their Indiana driver's licenses.

Eligibility

To be eligible for an operator's license, the applicant must meet these requirements:

- Be at least 16 years and 30 days if the applicant has held a valid driver education learner's permit for 60 days and has successfully completed a BMV-approved driver education course.
- Be at least 16 years and 180 days if the applicant has held a valid Indiana learner's permit for 60 days.
- Show proof of identity and date of birth as outlined in the *Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles Document List*, found at www.myBMV.IN.gov.
- For first-time applicants, must show proof of Social Security number or letter of ineligibility and Indiana residency.
- Provide proof of lawful status.
- Successfully complete a written knowledge test based on the information contained in this manual.
- Successfully pass a standard vision screening test.
- If less than 18 years of age, have an appropriate adult sign the financial responsibility agreement portion of the application.
- Successfully pass a driving skills test with a BMV driver examiner in a vehicle that the applicant provides, unless the applicant qualifies for a waiver.

NOTE: *An individual who holds a learner's permit or driver education learner's permit may fail no more than three examinations (i.e., a combination of written and drive tests) when applying for an operator's license. In addition, if one of the first two examinations failed is a drive test, then the applicant must wait 14 days before being administered another drive test. Verbal written tests can be arranged through a local license branch by appointment.*

Drivers Under the Age of 21

Drivers who renew their license prior to their 21st birthday will be required to pass a written exam if they have any active points on their driving record. Additionally, the license will be in a vertical format that displays "Under 21 until xx/xx/xxxx."

Driver Education Learner's Permit

The driver education learner's permit is limited to allow a student to drive while enrolled in a BMV-approved driver education course with an approved driver training school or the Indiana Department of Education.

NOTE: *To be validated, the driver education learner's permit must have the classroom and behind-the-wheel passing scores, school stamp or seal, completion date and instructors' signatures.*

Eligibility

To obtain a driver education learner's permit, the applicant must:

- Be at least 15 years of age at time of issuance.
- Show proof of identity and date of birth as outlined in the *Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles Document List*, found at www.myBMV.IN.gov.
- Provide proof of Social Security number or letter of ineligibility.
- Provide proof of residency.
- Provide proof of lawful status.
- Show proof of enrollment in a BMV-approved driver education program by surrendering the certificate of driver education form (CDE) provided by the school, dated no sooner than three weeks prior to the start of class.
- Successfully pass the standard vision screening test.
- If less than 18 years of age, have an appropriate adult sign the financial responsibility agreement portion of the application.

Extent of Driving Privileges

The holder of a driver education learner's permit may participate in practice driving after starting an approved driver education program, the student must be accompanied by a certified driving instructor in the front seat of a car equipped with dual brake controls, or by a parent, step-parent or guardian who holds a valid driver's license sitting in the front passenger seat.

Once the holder of a driver education learner's permit has successfully completed the driver education program, the BMV will validate the permit, and the holder may practice driving if the front passenger seat is occupied by a parent, guardian, step-parent or other relative who is at least 21 years old and has their valid driver's license in their possession.

A driver education learner's permit does not legally allow you to drive alone under any circumstances.

NOTE: *The driver education learner's permit is not valid if the student does not complete the driver education class and meet all course requirements. The student may apply for a learner's permit as outlined below.*

Learner's Permit

The learner's permit allows an individual to practice driving to qualify for an operator's license.

Eligibility

To obtain a validated learner's permit, the applicant must:

- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Show proof of identity and date of birth from the *Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles*

Document List, found at www.myBMV.IN.gov.

- Show proof of lawful status.
- Show proof of Indiana residency.
- Successfully pass the standard vision screening test.
- Pass a written knowledge test based on the information contained in this manual.
- If less than 18 years of age, have an appropriate adult sign the financial responsibility agreement portion of the application.

Extent of Driving Privileges

The extent of driving privileges depends upon the age of the person who holds the learner's permit.

- If the holder is less than 18 years of age, the person may practice driving only while the front passenger seat is occupied by a parent, guardian, step-parent or other relative of the holder who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age with their valid driver's license in their possession.
- Or if the holder is at least 18 years of age, the person may practice driving only while the front passenger seat is occupied by any individual with a valid driver's license in that person's possession.

A learner's permit does not allow you to drive alone under any circumstances.

NOTE: An expired learner's permit is no longer valid, and you must pass the appropriate tests to obtain a new permit and hold it for 60 days.

Probationary License

Indiana Code 9-24-11-3 provides that a license issued to an individual less than 18 years of age is a probationary license.

NOTE: This law only applies to probationary licensed drivers who have not reached their 18th birthday. Drivers desiring to have the word "Probationary" removed from their licenses after turning eighteen (18) years of age (not necessary, just by choice) may go to any license branch and apply for an amended license. There is a fee for the amendment.

During the 90 days following the issuance of the probationary license, the individual holding the probationary license may not operate a motor vehicle in which there are passengers unless another individual who is at least 21 years of age and holds a valid operator's license is in the front passenger seat.

Seat Belt Requirement for Probationary License Holders

Indiana law, IC 9-24-11-3, provides that an individual holding a probationary license may operate a motor vehicle (including passenger trucks) only if the individual and each occupant of the motor vehicle have a safety belt properly fastened about the occupants' bodies at all times when the motor vehicle is in motion.

Financial Responsibility Agreement (IC 9-24-9-3, 4 and 5)

An individual under 18 years of age who applies for a permit or license must file a financial responsibility agreement with the application. The financial responsibility agreement must be signed by an adult under penalty of perjury agreeing to assume all legal obligations for injuries or damages that the minor applicant's driving might cause while the applicant is less than 18 years of age. The financial responsibility agreement is included with the application form, or can be obtained separately from a license branch.

The adults who may sign the financial responsibility agreement are the following in the order of preference:

- The parent having custody of the minor applicant or a designee of the custodial parent specified by the custodial parent.
- The non-custodial parent (as defined in IC 31-9-2-83) of the minor applicant or a designee of the non-custodial parent specified by non-custodial parent.
- The guardian having custody of the minor applicant.
- In the absence of a person described above, any other adult who is willing to assume the financial responsibility obligations.

NOTE: *The person who signs financial responsibility must present proof of identification and age that conforms to the current list of credentials.*

Termination of Financial Responsibility

Assumption of financial responsibility can be terminated in three ways:

- The minor turns 18 years of age.
- The death of the person who signed the affidavit, in which case, the minor must obtain the signature of another qualified person.
- The adult who assumed financial responsibility files an affidavit, available at all license branches, asking the BMV to cancel the minor's permit or license. The person may mail the affidavit to: BMV Driver Services, Room N405, Indiana Government Center, North 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Dropping Out, Being Suspended, or Being Expelled from School

Indiana law requires school principals to notify the BMV to invalidate the driver's license of a person under the age of 18 who:

- Is under an expulsion, exclusion or second suspension from school for that current school year.
- Has withdrawn from school (unless due to financial hardship).
- Has been determined to be a habitual truant.

The license shall remain invalid for expulsions, exclusions, and suspensions for at least 120 days, or in the event of a habitual truancy or withdrawal from school, until the individual turns 18 or the student has re-enrolled in school and is in good standing.

Chauffeur's License

A chauffeur's license grants all of the privileges of an operator's license. In addition, it permits the driver to operate vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of at least 16,000 pounds but not more than 26,000 pounds (whether single vehicle or combined gross vehicle weight) when used to transport property and to operate a private bus that carries passengers for religious, fraternal, charitable, or other benevolent organizations, youth associations, or public or private institutions of higher education.

Eligibility

To apply for a chauffeur's license, the applicant must meet the following requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have at least one year of driving experience as a licensed driver.
- Pass a chauffeur written knowledge test. Under certain conditions, an operator test may also be required.
- Successfully pass the standard vision-screening test.
- If an existing Indiana driver, must provide old license and verification of Social Security number or letter of ineligibility.
- If new to Indiana:
 - Must show proof of identity and date of birth as outlined in the *Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles Document List*, found at www.myBMV.IN.gov.
 - Provide proof of Social Security number or letter of ineligibility.
 - Provide proof of lawful status.
 - Provide proof of Indiana residency.

NOTE: A written knowledge test is not required when an applicant is renewing an Indiana chauffeur's license unless the applicant has accumulated six or more points on his/her driving record since the previous application.

Public Passenger Chauffeur's License

A Public Passenger Chauffeur's (PPC) license grants the privilege to transport persons for hire as long as the vehicle is not designed or used to transport 16 or more persons, including the driver. The holder of a PPC license may also operate any vehicle that a person with an operator's or chauffeur's license may legally operate. The most common applicants for the use of a PPC license are taxicab and limousine drivers.

Eligibility

To apply for a PPC license, the applicant must meet the same requirements as that of an applicant for an operator's license plus the following requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must have at least two years driving experience as a licensed driver.
- If an existing Indiana driver, must provide old license and verification of Social Security number or letter of ineligibility.
- If new to Indiana:

- Must show proof of identity and date of birth as outlined in the *Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles Document List*, found at www.myBMV.IN.gov.
- Provide proof of Social Security number or letter of ineligibility.
- Show proof of lawful status.
- Provide proof of Indiana residency.
- The applicant must pass a public passenger chauffeur written knowledge test.
- Under certain conditions, an operator test may also be required.
- The applicant must submit an original (no photo copies will be accepted) medical examination form 3337 (available at all license branches and online at www.myBMV.IN.gov under "BMV Forms"). The form must be completed within 30 days of the application date by a licensed physician indicating that the applicant does not suffer from any mental or physical impairment that would adversely affect the applicant's ability to operate a public passenger vehicle.

NOTE: *When renewing a PPC, a completed medical examination form must be completed within 30 days of the application date, and the applicant must successfully pass the standard vision-screening test. A written knowledge test is not required, unless the applicant has accumulated six or more points on his/her driving record since the previous application.*

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and CDL Learner's Permit

A CDL is required to operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV). The CDL learner's permit allows an individual to operate a CMV under certain conditions while in driver training. A CMV includes the following:

- A vehicle or combination of vehicles operated together, such as a semi tractor-trailer, with a declared gross vehicle weight rating in excess of 26,000 pounds.
- A vehicle designed or used to transport 16 or more persons, including the driver.
- Or, a vehicle used and placarded to transport hazardous materials.

Eligibility

In general, requirements for a CDL learner's permit and a CDL are much greater than for any other type of license and are based upon stringent federal motor carrier safety regulations. Anyone interested in applying for a CDL should obtain a *CDL Manual* published by the Indiana Department of Revenue Motor Carrier Services and available from a BMV license branch or at www.in.gov/dor (Forms and Publications) or www.myBMV.IN.gov (Driver's Licenses).

An applicant must comply with the following requirements:

- Have a valid Indiana operator's, chauffeur's, or public passenger chauffeur's license.
- Be a minimum of 21 years of age for a driver who transports people, and 18 years of age for a driver who transports property within state lines.
- Have a minimum of one year driving experience as a licensed driver.
- Pass detailed written tests appropriate to the type of CDL to be obtained.

- Pass an intensive driving skills test.
- Pass a detailed physical examination to determine fitness based on Federal Motor Carrier safety regulations.
- Show proof of residency and identification.
- Show proof of lawful status.

NOTE: Individuals wanting a hazardous materials endorsement to a CDL license must pass a U.S. Transportation Security Administration security threat assessment.

Motorcycle Learner's permit, License, or Endorsement Requirements

In order to operate a motorcycle legally in Indiana, a resident must have an Indiana motorcycle learner's permit, an Indiana motorcycle-only operator's license, or a motorcycle endorsement on his or her Indiana driver's license. The following sections explain how a permit, license or an endorsement may be obtained.

IMPORTANT: More detailed information concerning the safe and legal operation of a motorcycle can be found in the *Motorcycle Operator Manual*, which is available at any license branch.

Motorcycle Learner's Permit

The motorcycle learner's permit allows an individual to practice operating a motorcycle to qualify for a motorcycle endorsement on a driver's license or a motorcycle operator's license.

Eligibility

To obtain a motorcycle learner's permit, the applicant must:

- Hold a valid Indiana operator's license.
- Provide proof of identity and date of birth from the *Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles Document List*, found at www.myBMV.IN.gov.
- Provide proof of Social Security number or letter of ineligibility.
- Provide proof of legal status.
- Provide proof of residency.
- Pass a written motorcycle test based on the information contained in the *Motorcycle Operator Manual*.
- Successfully pass a standard vision screening test.
- If less than 18 years of age, have an appropriate family member sign the financial responsibility agreement portion of the application.

Extent of Driving Privileges

The holder of a motorcycle learner's permit is authorized to operate a motorcycle for a period of one year under the following restrictions:

- The holder must wear a helmet that meets the standards established by the United States Department of Transportation under 49CFR571.218.
- The holder may only operate a motorcycle during daylight hours.

- The holder may not carry any passengers.

Temporary Motorcycle Learner's Permit

The temporary motorcycle learner's permit allows an applicant to enroll in a motorcycle driver's education course.

Eligibility

To obtain a temporary motorcycle learner's permit, the applicant must:

- Be at least 15 years of age.
- Provide proof of identity and date of birth from the *Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles Document List*, found at www.myBMV.IN.gov, which includes:
 - A Social Security number or letter of ineligibility.
 - Proof of legal status.
 - Proof of residency.
- Be enrolled in and provide a certificate of enrollment for an approved motorcycle driver education program.
- Successfully pass the standard vision screening test.
- If less than 18 years of age, have an appropriate adult sign the financial responsibility agreement portion of the application.

Extent of Driving Privileges

The holder of a temporary motorcycle learner's permit may operate a motorcycle on a street or highway while participating in an approved motorcycle driver education and training course only under the direct supervision of a certified driver instructor. The instructor must be certified to teach a motorcycle driver education course by the State Board of Education or by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Once the course is completed:

- The permit holder must be under the supervision of a licensed motorcycle operator who is at least 18 years of age.
- The permit holder must wear a helmet that meets the standards established by the United States Department of Transportation under 49CFR571.218.
- The permit holder may only operate a motorcycle during daylight hours.
- The permit holder may not carry any passengers.

NOTE: *An individual cannot hold a regular learner's permit and a temporary motorcycle learner's permit at the same time.*

Motorcycle – Operator's License or Endorsement

A motorcycle-only operator's license or a motorcycle endorsement to a driver's license shows that the holder is licensed to operate a motorcycle.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a motorcycle operator's license, an applicant must:

- Have a motorcycle learner's permit for at least 30 days and satisfactorily complete a motor operational skills test or show proof of completion of an approved Indiana

motorcycle operator safety education course.

- Pass a written motorcycle test based on the information contained in the Motorcycle Operator Manual.
- Meet the age requirement of at least 16 years and 30 days of age.
- Be able to pass the standard vision screening test.
- If less than 18 years of age, have an appropriate adult sign the financial responsibility agreement portion of the application.

If an individual chooses to have a motorcycle operator's license and later applies for a standard operator's license, then the individual must surrender the motorcycle operator's license. The individual will be required to apply for a driver education or learner's permit and when the applicant meets the age, time and testing requirements to be issued an operator's license, then may apply for the motorcycle endorsement.

Adding a Motorcycle Endorsement to an Indiana Driver's License

To be eligible for a motorcycle endorsement to be added to an existing Indiana driver's license, the applicant must:

- Be at least 16 years and 30 days of age.
- Be able to pass the standard vision screening test.
- Have held a valid motorcycle learner's permit for at least 30 days.
- Pass a motorcycle skills test given by a person certified by the BMV or an approved Indiana motorcycle operator safety education course.
- If less than 18 years of age, have an appropriate adult sign the financial responsibility agreement portion of the application.

NOTE: *If the license is due for renewal when adding the endorsement to the license, the applicant must successfully pass a standard vision-screening test.*

Obtaining a Motorcycle Endorsement from an Out-of-State License

If the applicant currently holds a motorcycle endorsement issued by another state, the applicant must follow the requirements to obtain an Indiana driver's license. In addition, an applicant who wants to obtain the motorcycle endorsement will be required to pass a written motorcycle test. If the out-of-state license is expired for one year or more, the applicant will be required to pass a motorcycle skills test.

For motorcycle skills testing information, visit www.myBMV.IN.gov.

SAFETY TIP: HELMETS SAVE LIVES!

Identification Cards for Non-Drivers

The BMV offers identification cards for Indiana residents who do not drive. An individual may not hold a driver's license and an identification card at the same time. The identification card looks similar to a standard driver's license except that it is

clearly marked as a non-driver identification card at the top of the document and the letters "ID" are printed in dark pink behind the customer information. To obtain a non-driver identification card, the applicant must meet the requirements for proof of identity and date of birth by presenting documents from the current list of credentials. Persons of any age may obtain a non-driver identification card. The BMV offers a reduced fee for senior or disabled applicants.

OBTAINING YOUR INDIANA DRIVER'S LICENSE

A driver's license may be obtained by applying at any Indiana BMV license branch. Check your phone directory or go online at www.myBMV.IN.gov to locate the nearest license branch.

Reminder: It is your responsibility *at the time of issuance* to check your license thoroughly for possible errors in the name, address, physical description and date of birth. Please bring any errors appearing on the license to the attention of a customer service representative before leaving the license branch. If errors are later discovered, a fee may be charged for changes or corrections.

Residency Requirements

For the purpose of obtaining a driver's license, "Indiana Resident" refers to a person who is one of the following:

- Any person who has been living in Indiana for at least 183 days during the calendar year and who has no legal residence in another state.
- A person who is registered to vote in Indiana.
- A person who has a child enrolled in an elementary school or a secondary school located in Indiana.
- A person who received more than one-half of his or her gross income from Indiana using the provisions applicable to determining adjusted gross income.
- For commercial driver's license purposes, a person who is enrolled as a student of a truck-driving training school and has legal residence in another state but is living in Indiana temporarily for the express purpose of taking truck driver training.

However, the term "resident" does not include a person who has been living in Indiana for any of the following purposes:

- To attend an institution of higher education.
- To serve on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States.
- To operate specialized construction equipment temporarily on a public road.
- An individual who is not a resident of Indiana and who has a current valid license issued by another state and who meets the minimum age requirements for the equivalent type of Indiana driver's license.

New Indiana Residents

When you become a resident of Indiana, you have **60 days** to obtain an Indiana driver's license.

Application/Proof of Identity

If you are applying for an Indiana driver's license, permit or identification card, you will be required to provide proof of your identity.

To preserve the integrity of the driver's license for identification purposes, the BMV has established guidelines of acceptable forms of proof of identity, which includes name, legal residency status, including Indiana state residence, date of birth, and Social Security number or proof of ineligibility. Please contact your license branch for the current list of credentials or visit www.myBMV.IN.gov.

Fraudulent License Applications

Misuse of license and illegal manufacture of licenses (IC 9-24-16-12; 9-24-18-2, -7). It is a criminal offense to:

- Produce or assist another person in the production of a false or fraudulent license or non-driver identification card.
- Present another person's driver's license or identification card as one's own or allow another person to use your driver's license or identification card.
- Counterfeit or falsely reproduce a driver's license or identification card with the intent to use such license or identification card or allow another person to use such license or identification card.

In addition to the existing criminal penalties, the BMV may suspend the driving privileges for up to one year of a person who produces or assists another person in producing a false or fraudulent license, permit or identification card application.

LICENSE RENEWALS, AMENDMENTS, AND DUPLICATES

License Renewal

A driver's license expires at midnight on the driver's birthday. A delinquent fee will be assessed if the license is renewed after the expiration date. A person may renew his or her driver's license at any license branch during the 12-month period prior to the expiration of the license.

If your license has expired, please refer to the proof of identity requirements to determine whether the expired license alone will satisfy as proof of identity. When renewing a license in a license branch, the applicant must pass a standard vision screening. There are no other eligibility requirements except as follows:

- If a person renewing an operator's license has not reached 21 years of age and has active points on the applicant's driver record, or is older than 21 years of age and has accumulated six or more active "points" on his or her driving record, he or she must take the standard written examination for an operator's license.
- A "4" restriction on a driver's license indicates the driver needs special controls or identifies a driver who has a disability that requires special driving techniques.

These drivers are required to see a BMV driver examiner if the driver's condition has changed since they last obtained a license.

License Amendments

A person may obtain an amended driver's license from any license branch in the state.

Name and Address Change

Pursuant to IC 9-24-13-4, driver's license holders are required to notify the BMV immediately of an address or name change. **Avoid possible license suspension by complying with this requirement.** To change the address on a license or identification card, the applicant must visit a license branch with proof of the new residential address and pay an amendment fee. Refer to proof of residency requirements from the current list of credentials at www.myBMV.IN.gov.

Organ Donation

Anatomical Gift/Organ Donation Information



On the application of all licenses and non-driver identification cards, a space exists in which the holder can indicate his or her intention to make an anatomical gift and to indicate the extent of that gift. An individual's wish to be a donor is designated by a red heart on the front of the license or ID card.

Under Indiana's Donor Choice Law, individuals 18 and older may declare their intention to donate, and family members may NOT override that intention at the time of death. Individuals under age 18 may declare their donation intentions with the permission of a parent or legal guardian, who must also provide consent for donation at the time of a minor's death. Please discuss end-of-life decisions such as organ, tissue and eye donation with family members. For further information, please visit the Indiana Donation Alliance Foundation Web site and donor registry.

Expiration of Licenses and Identification Cards

Pursuant to IC 9-24-12-11, if a person's operator's, chauffeur's, public passenger chauffeur's, or motorcycle license or identification card has a birthday that expires on a **Sunday, a legal holiday** (as set forth in IC 1-1-9-1), or a **weekday when all license branches in the person's county of residence are closed**, then the person's license or identification card does not expire until midnight on the first day after the birthday on which a license branch is open for business in the person's county of residence.

Validity Period for Different Licenses and Permits

- Driver Education Learner's Permit
 - Apply before 15 years, 3 months: valid until 16 years, 3 months
 - Apply after 15 years, 3 months: valid for 1 year
- Learner's Permit: valid for 1 year
- Probationary Operator's license (under 18 years): valid until 21st birthday

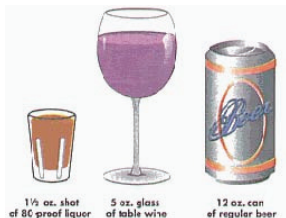
- Operator's License
 - Issued before 12/31/08: valid 4 years
 - Issued after 12/31/08: valid 6 years
 - Age 75 – 85: valid 3 years
 - Age 85+: valid 2 years
- Chauffeur's License: valid 6 years
 - Age 75 – 85: valid 3 years
 - Age 85+: valid 2 years
- Public Passenger Chauffeur's License: valid 4 years
- Motorcycle Learner's Permit License: valid 1 year
- Temporary Motorcycle Learner's Permit:
 - Apply before 15 years, 3 months: valid until 16 years, 3 months
 - Apply after 15 years, 3 months: valid 1 year
- Motorcycle Operator's License: valid 6 years
 - Age 75 – 85: valid 3 years
 - Age 85+: valid 2 years
- Identification Card: valid 6 years
- Special Identification Card: valid 6 years

SUSPENSIONS, REVOCATIONS AND INVALIDATIONS

A licensed driver can lose his or her driving privileges for violating traffic regulations and other laws of the state. This section summarizes the ways in which driving privileges can be lost. **REMEMBER: DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE IN INDIANA IS A PRIVILEGE AND NOT A RIGHT!**

Mandatory Court-Ordered Suspensions

Indiana law gives courts the authority to order the BMV to suspend a person's driver's license when he or she is found to have committed certain traffic violations. In most of these instances a minimum suspension period is required. A driver's license gives you the privilege to operate a vehicle in a legal manner; it can be taken away if you do not abide by Indiana traffic laws.



License Suspension for Operating a Vehicle While Intoxicated

Motorists in Indiana agree to submit to a certified chemical test to determine the amount of alcohol in his or her bloodstream. **Driving while intoxicated** or with a blood-alcohol content ("BAC") in excess of the legal limit is a criminal offense and has an immediate and significant effect on your privilege to operate a vehicle. A sobering

fact about alcohol: it is not what you drink, it's how much. A 12-ounce beer, a 5-ounce glass of wine, and a cocktail with 1.5 ounces of 80 proof distilled spirits all contain the same amount of alcohol.

- **Refusal to Submit to a Certified Chemical Test:** A person who refuses to submit to a certified chemical test conducted by a law enforcement officer will have his or her license confiscated and will face a license suspension of up to two years.
- **Failure of the Certified Chemical Test:** If a person submits to the certified chemical test and fails, that person's driving privileges may be suspended for a period of up to 180 days upon receipt by the BMV of an affidavit from the law enforcement officer submitted to the court containing the results of the failed test.
- **Post-Conviction Suspensions:** The suspensions discussed above are pre-conviction license suspensions. When a person is convicted of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated or with a BAC of 0.08% or more, the court is required to suspend the driver's license for at least 90 days. The suspension periods are longer for repeat offenders. Even if a person is a first-time offender and the local courts defer the conviction, the 90-day suspension is mandatory.
 - The court may, if the person is not a repeat offender and is otherwise eligible, stay the execution of the post-conviction suspension and issue an order for a probationary license granting limited driving privileges. A person must be suspended for at least 30 days before the probationary driving privileges may take effect. The court may require the installation of an ignition interlock device, which mechanically tests the driver's BAC level before his or her car can be started, as a condition of the probationary license.
 - If the driver's license is suspended upon conviction of a major offense, in order to be reinstated, the driver must submit proof of long-term insurance (SR-22 filing) to the BMV from an insurance agent. This filing provides that the driver has an auto liability policy in effect that cannot be cancelled without prior notice.

NOTE: Financial responsibility (SR22) insurance is mandatory for three years after the end of the suspension. If the BMV received a cancellation notice or does not have a current SR-22 on file at any time during the three-year period after reinstatement, the person's driving privileges will be suspended again.

- **Driving While Suspended:** If you are convicted of driving while your driving privileges are suspended, the violation carries a mandatory minimum suspension of 90 days and not more than two years.
- **Miscellaneous Criminal Acts in an Automobile:** In addition to the suspensions noted above, Indiana law mandates minimum license suspension periods for acts such as criminal recklessness and criminal mischief in an automobile as well as more serious offenses such as involuntary manslaughter and reckless homicide.
- **Suspension for Juvenile Offenses of Operating While Intoxicated:** Upon the

issuance of a citation for a violation of the Operating-While-Intoxicated laws for Indiana (IC 9-30-5), the Juvenile Court shall recommend the suspension of the driving privilege of the child alleged to have committed the offense.

- **Upon the Determination by Juvenile Court** that a child is a delinquent child due to the commission of a delinquent act in violation of the Operating-While-Intoxicated laws for the State of Indiana (IC 9-30-5), the Juvenile Court shall recommend the suspension of the driving privileges of the delinquent child.

Major Offenses that Lead to a Suspension

Failure to Appear or Pay Traffic Offenses

Failing to respond to the issuance of a citation by a law enforcement officer for speeding or other offenses or not paying for tickets after a judgment has been entered may lead to the suspension of your driving privileges. Upon receipt of a certification from a court that a person has not appeared or paid for a traffic offense, the BMV is required to suspend that person's driving privileges. The suspension is indefinite and ends only when the person has either appeared or paid for the offense, and provides proof of disposition to the BMV.

Habitual Traffic Violators

Indiana's Habitual Traffic Violator law provides serious penalties for persons who have committed repeat traffic offenses over a 10-year period. The BMV will use the criteria listed below to determine if a driver qualifies as a Habitual Traffic Violator.

Qualifying as a Habitual Traffic Violator

A habitual traffic violator is any person who, within a 10-year period, is convicted of the number and type of offenses outlined below:

A. Two Major Offenses Resulting in Injury or Death (10-Year Suspension), including:

- Reckless homicide resulting from operating a motor vehicle.
- Voluntary or involuntary manslaughter resulting from the operation of a motor vehicle.
- A driver involved in an accident resulting in death or injury who fails to stop at the scene of the accident and provide the required information and assistance.
- Operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated resulting in death.
- Operating a motor vehicle with a BAC of 0.08% or more resulting in death.

B. Three Major Offenses (10-Year Suspension), including:

- Driving while intoxicated or with a BAC of 0.08% or more.
- Driving while suspended, when the suspension was the result of a criminal act involving a motor vehicle.
- Operating a motor vehicle without ever having obtained a license to do so.
- Reckless driving.
- Criminal recklessness involving the operation of a motor vehicle.
- Drag racing or engaging in a speed contest in violation of the law.
- Leaving the scene of an accident or failing to make an accident report.

- Any felony under the Indiana motor vehicle statutes or any felony in the commission of which a motor vehicle is used.
- Any of the offenses listed in section “A” as noted.

C. Ten Moving Violations, one of which is a Major Offense listed in section A or B above.

The BMV may suspend a person’s driver’s license for five years if that person accumulates ten moving violations in a ten-year period, one of which is a major offense listed. For example, a person with nine speeding tickets and one reckless driving conviction in a ten-year period will be subject to a five-year suspension as a habitual traffic violator.

Operating a Vehicle While Suspended as a Habitual Traffic Violator

Operating a vehicle while suspended as a habitual traffic violator is a **felony**, which is the most serious type of criminal offense. Indiana law requires that a person who receives a conviction for operating a vehicle while suspended as a habitual traffic violator must have his or her driving privileges forfeited for life.

Failure to Meet Insurance Requirements

Driving without a valid liability insurance policy on the vehicle you are operating is against the law. Thousands of Indiana residents suffer bodily injuries or property damages yearly caused by persons without insurance coverage on their vehicles.

Everyone pays more for insurance to cover the risk of being injured or suffering property damage caused by uninsured motorists. In an attempt to deter uninsured motorists, Indiana law provides the following sanctions for operating a vehicle without the proper insurance:

- **No Insurance:** A person who operates a vehicle without an automobile liability insurance policy is subject to a minimum 90-day driver’s license suspension. In order to obtain a reinstatement of the license, the person must pay a reinstatement fee of \$150, \$225, or \$300, depending on whether it is a first, second, third or subsequent offense, and provide current proof of insurance signed by an insurance agent.
- **When proof of insurance coverage must be provided:** Operating a vehicle without insurance coverage is a Class A infraction. In addition, a person in court on a traffic violation may be requested to prove he or she had insurance coverage on the date of the offense. This occurs in two types of instances:
After an accident: All accident information sent to the State Police is also sent to the BMV. If the insurance information is not provided by the insurance company to State Police, a request for proof of financial responsibility (i.e., automobile liability insurance) in the form of a “certificate of compliance” will be sent to the person’s address as shown on his or her official driving record. The person then must arrange for his or her insurance company agent to complete the information on the certificate and return the certificate to the BMV within 40 days. Failure to return the certificate of compliance as required will result in the license suspension described.

After Certain Moving Violations: When the BMV receives a report from a court of a judgment or conviction for any moving violation for which points are assessed by the BMV, a certificate of compliance form is sent to the driver at the address shown on his or her official driving record, including:

- When the BMV receives notification of a moving traffic violation and points are assessed, and the driver has at least two other moving traffic violations in which points were assessed within a twelve-month period.
- When the moving violation is a felony or a misdemeanor.
- When the driver has been previously suspended for failure to carry the proper insurance. The driver has the same 40-day period to have the information completed and returned to the BMV to avoid the suspension of his or her driver's license.

NOTE: KEEP YOUR ADDRESS CURRENT WITH THE BMV. *The BMV sends requests for proof of insurance to thousands of drivers each year. You are required by law to notify the BMV if you move and change your address. More importantly, it makes sense to do so in case any official notice is sent to you by the BMV. You can avoid needless driver's license suspensions by responding in the specified period of time. You may also apply for an amendment to your driver's license at any branch or by mail.*

Accumulation of Traffic Offenses – Excessive Points on Record

The BMV Driver Improvement Safety Responsibility Division (DISR)

The DISR division identifies individuals who accumulate a number of moving violations in a short period of time. The BMV assesses a point value for each conviction of a moving violation under Indiana law. The point value relates to the seriousness of the offense in posing a risk to traffic safety. Point values for offenses range from two to eight points, depending on the violation. For example, a speeding offense fewer than 15 miles an hour over the posted limit is a two-point violation, while a conviction for operating a vehicle while intoxicated is an eight-point violation. Points stay active on your driving record for two years from the conviction date of the citation.

The Administrative Hearing

Drivers who accumulate 18 or more active points during a two-year period will be notified and required to attend an administrative hearing. At the hearing, the administrative law judge will make a determination whether to:

- Place the driver on probation;
- Suspend the person's driving privileges for a period of not less than thirty (30) days up to the maximum one year; or
- Impose additional requirements beyond the order of probation or suspension such as requiring attendance at a BMV-approved driver safety program.

Failure to Appear for Administrative Hearing

If you fail to appear for the administrative hearing at the time and place designated, the administrative law judge may hold the hearing in your absence and render a decision for your case.

Examples of violations and the corresponding point values.

(Points may vary for speeding violations)

1 – 15 mph over the limit	2-point violation
16 – 25 mph over the limit	4-point violation
26 – plus over limit	6-point violation
Fail to use headlights	2-point violation
No brake or signal lights	2-point violation
Disregard stop/yield sign	6-point violation
Fail to yield to emergency vehicle	8-point violation
Improper U-turn	4-point violation
Following too closely	6-point violation
Unsafe lane movement	4-point violation
Failure to yield	6-point violation
Speed contest on road	8-point violation
Improper MC headgear	4-point violation
Improper MC passenger	4-point violation
Driving While Suspended (DWI)	8-point violation

BMV Driver Safety Programs

The BMV has a driver safety program with a defensive driving curriculum that provides either a classroom, internet, or home study video option. Any person may sign up for the BMV-approved driver safety program. The program provides an excellent summary of defensive driving techniques and is a useful refresher course for drivers. As an incentive to those who complete the course, a four-point credit will appear on their Indiana driving record for a period of three years.

When Required:

- By a court: A judge has the authority to order a driver who commits a traffic violation to attend a driver safety program. A judge may decide to use this requirement as an alternative to a license suspension.
- By the BMV: Any person who, within a 12-month period, is convicted of two or more traffic offenses that result in convictions will be required by the BMV to attend a BMV-approved driver safety program. Failure to complete the program or pay the fee within the specified time will result in suspension of driving privileges.

Authorized Driver Safety Programs

The BMV has approved a limited number of driver safety program vendors. To obtain the contact information for BMV-approved driver safety program vendors, call the BMV at (317) 233-6000 option #1 or visit the BMV website at www.myBMV.IN.gov.

- Successful completion of a driver safety program with a BMV-approved company

will update your driving record with a four-point credit.

- A maximum fee for any BMV-approved format is \$50.00.
- Allow seven to 10 working days for results to be processed. Make check or money order payable to selected company; do not send payments to the BMV.

Failure to Complete a Mandatory Driver Safety Program

The driving privileges of a person who must complete a driver safety program will be suspended if the individual does not complete the program in the time required by the BMV. Failure to complete the course or pay the course fee will result in the suspension of the person's driver's license. Notification of the driver safety program requirement is made through the mail.

Writing a Bad Check to the BMV

As provided for in Indiana law, the BMV will indefinitely suspend the driver's license of a person who writes a check to pay the fee for any BMV service that is not honored by the issuer's bank. To obtain reinstatement of the license, the person will have to pay the amount of the check, plus a \$10 administrative fee and any amount required in IC 35-43-5-5 and IC 6-6-5-1.

Operating a Watercraft While Intoxicated or Other Offenses

Operating a watercraft while intoxicated is no less dangerous and illegal than operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. Upon a conviction for operating a watercraft while intoxicated, a person's driver's license will be suspended for the same minimum and maximum periods that are provided for operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. This conviction will be forwarded to the BMV for the suspension to take effect, and the conviction will become a part of the motorist's driving record. Other crimes related to the operation of a watercraft, such as reckless operation endangering the safety of others and operating a watercraft when a person's driving privileges have been suspended, will also be forwarded to the BMV.

Failure to Pay Child Support

Non-custodial parents who are unwilling to make required child support payments, may be subject to suspension of their driver's license. A non-paying parent's license can be suspended in two ways:

- **Court-Ordered Suspension:** A court that has determined that a parent is intentionally withholding child support payments may order the BMV to immediately suspend the non-paying parent's driver's license indefinitely until the parent begins making payments satisfactory to the court.
- **Administratively-Ordered Suspension:** If the local agency responsible for enforcing child support payments determines that a parent is more than three months or \$2,000 behind in child support, then that agency may send an order to the BMV requiring that the non-paying parent's driver's license be indefinitely suspended in 20 days. During that 20-day period, the parent can pay the unpaid amounts, arrange to have an amount automatically withheld from his or her paycheck, or contest whether he or she is delinquent in child support payments.

Graffiti and Other Offenses

The driving privileges of a person convicted of the act of making graffiti may be suspended, at the discretion of the court, for a period of up to one year.

The BMV may suspend or invalidate driver's licenses and/or permits, registration certificates or license plates upon any reasonable grounds concerning other offenses that come to the BMV's attention.

SPECIAL LICENSES AND CONDITIONS

New Residents with a Valid Photo License from Another State

An applicant for a new Indiana operator's license who holds a valid photo license issued by another state, the District of Columbia or a U.S. Territory must meet all of the eligibility requirements and successfully pass the written and vision tests. If the out-of-state license is expired for over one year, the applicant must successfully pass the written, vision, and drive tests.

If an applicant is less than 18 years of age, an appropriate adult must sign the financial responsibility portion of the application.

NOTE: Upon issuing one of the Indiana driver's license, the individual's previous license will be forfeited to the Indiana BMV.

New Residents with an Out-of-Country License

An individual who does not intend to become a resident of Indiana may drive in Indiana with an out-of-country license for a period of one year. An international driving permit must accompany the out-of-country driver's license while driving.

However, a person who intends to become an Indiana resident or who resides in Indiana for longer than one year and wants to obtain a license must first follow the guidelines to obtain an Indiana learner's permit.

The BMV is committed to protecting the integrity of driver and identification records. To achieve this, we must verify the accuracy of documents with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), formerly Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) and/or Immigration and Naturalization Service, or (INS).

All DHS documents that are presented to and accepted by the license branch will be verified with the Central Verification Process (CVP). To minimize any inconvenience, the BMV will issue a "letter of authorization" valid for 60 days. The "letter of authorization" for a license or permit is an authorization to operate a vehicle pending authentication of the documents submitted to the BMV. It is not to be used for identification purposes or a commercial driver's license (CDL).

When the validity of the documents is confirmed, the BMV will mail the license, permit or identification card to the applicant. If the documents cannot be verified, the applicant

will receive a letter explaining the determination and an explanation of his/her right to request an administrative hearing to review the determination. No refunds will be issued in the case of documents that cannot be verified.

NOTE: *An out-of-country license is not accepted as identification or proof of driving experience. Therefore, it will not be forfeited upon issuance of an Indiana learner's permit, driver's license, or identification card. However, U.S. Territory licenses will be forfeited.*

Motorboats, Motorized Bicycles, and Off-Road Vehicles

Motorboats

Indiana law requires the operator of any motorboat with an engine with more than 10 horsepower to carry a valid driver's license; in some instances, the operator may hold, in lieu of a driver's license, a BMV-issued identification card.

Eligibility

- A person less than 21 but at least 15 years of age may legally operate a motorboat if he or she holds a valid driver's license.
- A person at least 21 years of age may legally operate a motorboat with a valid driver's license.
- A person who does not hold a driver's license may legally operate a motorboat if he or she holds a BMV-issued identification card and has completed a boating education course approved by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

Contact the **Indiana Department of Natural Resources** for information concerning boating education courses or refer to the Handbook of Indiana Boating Laws.

NOTE: *If your driver's license is suspended, you may not legally operate a motorboat.*

Motorized Bicycles

A motorized bicycle, commonly known as a "moped," is defined under Indiana law as a two- or three-wheeled vehicle, is propelled by a motor or engine, has no more than two-horse power, a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic centimeters, an automatic transmission and a maximum design speed of 25 miles per hour. Vehicles with engines exceeding these limits are motorcycles, and a person must meet the licensing requirements to legally operate such a vehicle. A manufacturer's certificate of origin or a certificate of title, if any, to the vehicle will indicate whether such vehicle is a motorized bicycle or a motorcycle.

The following requirements apply to the operator of a motorized bicycle:

- An operator of a motorized bicycle must be at least 15 years of age.
- An operator of a motorized bicycle must have a valid driver's license or have a current BMV-issued identification card in his or her possession.

- A motorized bicycle may not be operated on an interstate highway or at a speed in excess of 25 miles per hour.
- If an individual is less than 18 years of age, he or she is required to wear protective headgear and protective glasses, goggles or transparent face shield.

Off-Road Vehicles

A person who purchases an off-road vehicle after December 31, 2005, must obtain a certificate of title for the off-road vehicle from the BMV. A person who becomes an Indiana resident after December 31, 2005, will be required to obtain a certificate from the Bureau for an off-road vehicle that is less than five model years old. The cylinder capacity of the vehicle may determine the recommended age of the person riding this type of vehicle.

NOTE: For further information on off-road vehicles, contact the Department of Natural Resources at 317-233-3149 or visit www.in.gov/dnr.

Renewal for Indiana Residents Outside of Indiana

(See Military Information below)

The BMV may renew by mail a valid Indiana driver's license held by an individual temporarily residing outside of Indiana, if the applicant:

- Shows good cause why the license cannot be renewed within Indiana (i.e., active military service or missionary status);
- Submits a complete application with required affidavit;
- Pays the required fee; and
- Submits a written affidavit that affirms that no source document upon which the operator's license was issued has changed or been altered since the prior issuance of the operator's license.

The Indiana driver's license of an individual who is temporarily residing outside of Indiana remains valid for 30 days beyond the expiration date of that license if the individual has:

- Applied for a renewal of the license.
- Has not been denied a renewal of the license.

The renewal license will not have a photograph. Persons seeking to renew by mail can write to: **BMV Photo Exempt Request, 531 Virginia Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204** or by calling 317-234-0550.

Photo-Exempt License

An individual with a religious objection to taking a photograph may make a special application to the BMV for a photo-exempt driver's license or non-driver identification card. An application may be obtained at a local license branch or by writing to the above-listed address. The applicant must complete the application and attach a letter of certification of religious belief on letterhead from his or her minister, bishop, elder or other leader of the religious organization of which he or she is a member explaining

why he or she qualifies for a photo-exempt license or identification card, and mail both to the address listed above. The BMV will then mail an approval letter, which the applicant must take to a license branch to obtain a license.

Temporary License / Verification Letter

A licensed driver from Indiana whose license has not expired and whose license is lost or stolen while out of state may request one 90-day verification letter by contacting the BMV. This will enable the licensed driver to apply for a duplicate license upon return to Indiana.

Military

When the Indiana driver's license of a person who is residing outside Indiana due to service in the United States Armed Forces has expired, the license remains valid for 90 days following the person's discharge. To obtain a renewed license, the individual must apply for the driver's license during the 90-day period following the individual's discharge and show proof of discharge when applying for the renewal.

International Driving Permits

Indiana licensed drivers may obtain a permit to operate a vehicle in a foreign country through their American Automobile Association (AAA) office. An individual coming from another country to Indiana should obtain an international driver permit from his or her departing country.

According to the AAA Digest of Motor Laws, foreign motorists from any of the countries included in the United Nations Convention on Road Traffic who visit the United States as bona fide tourists may drive on the out-of-country license for a period not to exceed one year from date of arrival. If the visiting tourist accepts a job or attends school in the United States, he or she then loses tourist status and may be required to obtain a state driver's license and license plates in accordance with the regulations in effect in the state of residence. If he or she intends to become a resident of Indiana, refer to section New Residents with Out-of-Country License on page 23 of this manual.

Services for Individuals with Disabilities and Interpreters

BMV driver examiners are trained to make individualized determinations regarding whether to issue a driver's licenses with restrictions to individuals with disabilities that adversely affect the normal operation of a standard-equipped vehicle. A restricted license may specify particular equipment that the person must have to operate a vehicle, or other restrictions tailored to accommodate the individual's specific needs. The driver examiners are the only individuals authorized at the license branch to make determinations regarding issuing restricted licenses in these cases. Any individual who may need a restricted license should contact a local license branch.

Translators/Interpreters

For more information about language or hearing impaired translators or interpreters, call (317) 233-6000 option #2.

Parking Placards for Individuals with Physical Disabilities

A parking placard for persons with physical disabilities gives the holder the legal authority to park a vehicle in parking designated for persons with disabilities. The placard is available for persons with either permanent or temporary disabilities and entities that contract with governmental agencies to provide transportation for persons with physical disabilities.

How to Obtain a Parking Placard

- **Medical Certification:** To apply for a parking placard, the applicant must have a physician, chiropractor or podiatrist complete a medical certification affirming that the individual has a disability and qualifies for a parking placard. If the person has a visual disability, an optometrist or ophthalmologist may complete the form. The medical certification form is available at any license branch, on the BMV Web site (www.myBMV.IN.gov) or may be obtained by sending a request to: BMV Driver Services, Room N405, Indiana Government Center, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204.
- **Application:** After having the medical certification completed, an individual can obtain a parking placard at any Indiana license branch. If the individual needs more than one placard, a second placard may be obtained.
- **Permanent Disabilities:** For a person with a permanent disability, the placard is valid for four years. There is no fee for the first two placards issued to a person with a permanent disability. However, during the time the placard is valid, if the individual requires more than two placards, there will be a fee charged for each additional placard. No more than five placards may be issued during the validity of the placard without special permission.
- **Temporary Disabilities:** For persons with a temporary disability, the placard is valid for six months or for a shorter period as prescribed by the medical professional on the medical certification. There is a fee for a temporary disability placard and only one placard may be issued during the time the placard is valid.
- **Transportation Companies:** For transportation companies that have contracted with a government entity to transport persons with physical disabilities, the placard is valid for four years or until the company ceases such services. Placards are issued to such companies free of charge.

THE DRIVER EXAMINATION

Vision Screening Requirements

All applicants for a license or permit are required to satisfy the BMV's minimum vision standards. This is true even if the applicant is renewing an existing license. Persons who normally wear glasses while driving should wear glasses during the vision test. If the visual ability does not meet BMV standards, the applicant will be referred to an eye doctor for examination. The applicant may return to the license branch with a statement from an eye doctor affirming that vision has been corrected to meet the state standard. The applicant may then continue the licensing process, including a

vision test at the license branch.

Following are some of the common restriction codes placed on a license due to vision:

- **A:** glasses or contact lenses required
- **B:** outside rearview mirrors required
- **C:** daylight driving only

Reading Without Glasses

Both eyes: 20/20 – 20/40: **No Restrictions**

One eye: 20/20 – 20/40

Other eye: 20/50 – Blind: **B Restriction**

Reading With Glasses

One eye: 20/20 – 20/40:

Other eye: 20/50 – Blind: **AB Restriction**

One eye: 20/50

Other eye: 20/50: **A Restriction**

One eye: 20/50

Other eye: 20/70 – Blind: **ABC Restriction**

One eye: 20/70

Other eye: 20/70: **ABC Restriction**

Visual Field Requirements

One eye: 55 degrees – 85 degrees:

Other eye: 55 degrees – 85 degrees: **No Restriction**

One eye: 55 degrees – 85 degrees + nasal in same eye:

Other eye: NR = no reading: **B Restriction**

NOTE: If glasses or contacts are required for acuity, an “A” restriction will be required. A minimum reading of 90 degree visual field is required for an Indiana operator, chauffeur, public passenger chauffeur, driver education learner’s permit, or motorcycle learner’s permit.

Restrictions on the Driver’s License

Restrictions may be placed on a driver’s license for a variety of reasons. These restrictions allow persons to operate a vehicle, but only under conditions that ensure safety to the driver and to the public. The most common restrictions are placed on a license based on vision screening and appear in the lower left-hand corner of the

driver's license and are described on the back of the license. Refer to the Vision Screening section of this manual.

Please contact your license branch for information about restrictions on a driver's license. Some restrictions on a driver's license are:

D	Automatic transmission	3	Photo exempt
U	Power steering	4	Special BMV restriction
V	PP Chauffeur (taxi only)	5	Conditional
K	CDL Intrastate only	6	Interlock ignition device
P	Class C Public Passenger	7	Seat belt exempt (medical condition)
L	Vehicle without air brakes	8	Medical condition (require medication)

Written Examination

A Written Examination is Required for:

- Applicants applying for a learner's permit.
- First-time applicants who apply for a specific driver's license type (i.e., operator's, chauffeur's, or public passenger chauffeur's license).
- Persons who hold a valid license, but who have not reached age 21 at the time of renewal and have active points on his or her driving record.
- Persons who hold an out-of-state license and who are applying for an Indiana driver's license.
- Persons whose Indiana license is expired for one year or longer.
- Applicants who have six or more active points on his or her Indiana driving record.

Contents of the Written Examination

Written examinations are based on information contained in this manual. Passage of the written examination demonstrates basic understanding of Indiana traffic laws and safe driving techniques.

Written examinations include multiple choice questions concerning traffic maneuvers and knowledge of traffic signs. **Sample questions are found in Chapter 4.**

If the applicant fails to pass a written test, he or she must wait until the next business day to take the test again. **An applicant is not permitted to take the road test until he or she successfully passes the written test.**

NOTE: An applicant who holds a driver education learner's permit may only fail three examinations (i.e., a combination of written and drive tests) when applying for an operator's license.

NOTE: A person who fails three examinations while holding a driver education learner's permit must then obtain a learner's permit, hold the learner's permit for at least 60 days, and be at least 16 years and 180 days old before applying for an operator's license.

NOTE: A person who holds a learner's permit and fails three drive examinations when applying for an operator's license must obtain a new learner's permit and wait two months before reapplying for a driver's license.

All applicants must have the ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning and directing traffic, as well as knowledge of Indiana traffic laws. The BMV may not issue a license or permit to an individual who is unable to understand highway warnings or direction signs written in the English language.

Written Knowledge Examination for CDL Holders

The written knowledge examinations for a CDL are considerably different than the other written examinations. Please refer to the Commercial Driver's License Manual for all requirements for a CDL. Visit: www.in.gov/dor (Forms and Publications) or www.myBMV.IN.gov (Driver's Licenses).

Driving Skills Test

After passing the vision screening and written test (if applicable), the examiner will test the applicant's ability to drive by riding with him/her and observing how well he or she controls the vehicle and observes the Indiana rules of the road. There is no charge for the driving skills test administered by the BMV driver examiner.

When Required

The following applicants for an Indiana operator's license must take a driving skills test, conducted by a BMV driver examiner, demonstrating their ability to operate a vehicle safely:

- Persons holding an Indiana learner's permit, unless the person qualifies for the driver education drive test waiver described below.
- New Indiana residents who hold an out-of-state license that has been expired for more than one year.
- New Indiana residents who hold an out-of-country license and have applied for a learner's permit.
- Indiana residents whose driver's licenses have been expired for one or more years, or other applicants as required by the BMV.

The Driver Education Waiver

The BMV shall waive the road test requirement for a person who has passed a driver education course given by an approved commercial driver training school or high school

driver education program with a passing score in the classroom and behind-the-wheel portions from a school that participates in the BMV waiver program.

Once a student has passed a standardized drive test with the school and is granted a waiver, he or she must successfully pass both a mandatory written test and vision-screening test before a driver's license may be issued. The school participating in the BMV waiver program may charge an additional fee for the drive test. Note: Only one drive test may be administered by the school prior to any BMV testing.

Loss of Waiver

The waiver is not available if:

- The driver education learner's permit has expired prior to the application for an operator's license, or
- The applicant fails to pass the written test.

NOTE: Remember the three-failed-exam rule! Study the manual before taking the examination.

Drive Test Scheduling

To serve new drivers efficiently, driver examiners perform drive tests on an appointment-only basis. Therefore, it is important that new applicants for an operator's license call a license branch in advance to schedule an appointment.

Requirements before the drive test

Upon successful completion of the vision and written knowledge tests (if applicable), the driver examiner will administer the drive test providing that the following conditions are met:

- Presentation of the proper documents (i.e., permits or license).
- Presentation of a written test affidavit (if applicable).
- Applicant's driver status must be "valid."
- The applicant must provide a vehicle (the State does not provide one).
- The vehicle must be legally equipped, and in safe and clean condition.
- The vehicle provided is properly registered (a signed vehicle registration must be provided).
- The applicant is accompanied by a person holding a valid driver's license in his or her possession (if applicable).
- The applicant must be able to demonstrate to the driver examiner that the applicant is able to understand highway warnings or direction signs in the English language.

General Components of the Drive Test

Approach the driving test as calmly as possible. The test will be only on regular, ordinary driving skills. The test is designed to find out if the driver can make the car do the right thing at the right time under different conditions, smoothly and safely.

The driver examiner wants to put the applicant at ease and will ask a few questions that are required before you begin driving. His or her job is to examine driving ability, not to provide instruction. He or she will not trick someone into making a driving error. Please do not distract the examiner. The examiner's job is to administer a fair and objective test based on what he or she observes. Do not interrupt the examiner's observations and scoring as the test proceeds. The examiner will score the test under well-established and well-defined rules.

NOTE: No one except the applicant and the examiner, examiner trainer and supervisor may be in the car during the drive test.

BMV driver examiners use a standardized form to evaluate an applicant's ability to operate a vehicle safely.

The following are examples of the actions that result in failure of the drive test:

- Speeding.
- Failing to obey road signs or traffic laws.
- Failing to obey school zone rules.
- Failing to stop for school buses with the stop arm extended.
- Straddling marked lanes.
- Driving too close to pedestrians, bicycles or vehicles.
- Driving left of center.
- Failing to pull over and stop for emergency vehicles.
- Running off the roadway.
- Backing over the curb when parallel parking.
- Having an accident or making contact with another vehicle.
- Failing to react to hazardous driving condition.
- Failing to yield right of way.
- Turning from improper lanes.
- Failing to stop at stoplights or stop signs completely.
- Failing to follow instructions.
- Accumulation of 11 points, as explained in the next paragraph.

The following are examples of actions that may result in accumulating points:

- Failing to use defroster or wipers when needed.
- Failing to use both hands on the wheel.
- Selecting the wrong gear.
- Failing to signal.
- Driving too slowly for conditions.
- Overrunning a crosswalk/stop line/stop sign.
- Stopping unnecessarily.
- Failing to turn into correct lane (i.e., nearest lane).
- Failing to check blind spot.

- Slowing speed when changing lanes.
- Backing too fast.
- Leaving turn signal on after completed lane change.
- Driving too closely to the vehicle ahead or a parked vehicle.

The applicant must pay special attention to the following:

- Driving in the proper lane, obeying the lane markings, looking carefully and signaling properly before changing lanes.
- Distance allowed between the driver's vehicle and the vehicle ahead, leaving enough space to avoid a collision.
- Reaction to being overtaken and passed by another vehicle, looking for maintaining speed and giving the other vehicle enough room in which to pass safely.
- Speed control according to posted speed limits and varying traffic conditions.
- General observance of good defensive driving habits.
- Listening to instructions and observing general traffic flow.
- Did the driver approach the intersection at the proper speed, look for other vehicles, come to complete stops, anticipate that the light might change, try to beat a yellow before it changed to red?
- Backing skills and backing correctly out of the parking space.
- Parallel parking ability. Did the applicant check traffic by looking in the rear view mirror and signal the intention to park? Did he/she position the vehicle before backing and move into the space smoothly and at the proper speed? Parking is illustrated in Chapter 3.

NOTE: Applicants who fail the drive test must wait 14 days before taking another drive test.

Voter Registration

A person obtaining or renewing a driver's license or identification card may register to vote at any Indiana license branch. Mail-in voter registration forms are available for persons who are not at the branch for driver's license or ID card transactions. Voter registration forms are also available in English and Spanish on the BMV Web site. If you have moved, you can register to vote in your new district.